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HARDY, LAURENCE M. 1980. *Ficimia ruspator.*

Ficimia ruspator Smith and Taylor
Guerrero hook-nosed snake

Ficimia ruspator Smith and Taylor, 1941:364. Type-locality, "3 miles east of Tixtla (about 10 miles east of Chilpancingo), Guerrero [Mexico]." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Natur. Hist. 25064 (originally EHT-HMS 23646), adult female, collected by E. H. Taylor and H. M. Smith; date of collection unknown (examined by author).

• CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

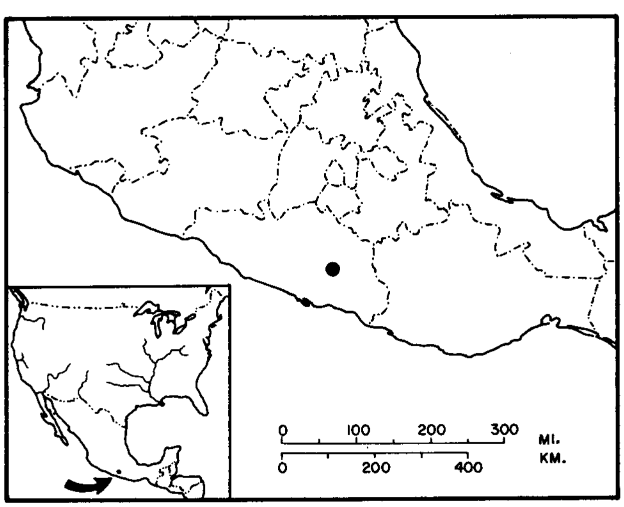
• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Ficimia ruspator* is a poorly known species of the genus *Ficimia* with the following characteristics: smooth dorsal scales in 18-18-17-17-17 rows with single apical pits and no anal ridges; 6 dorsal scales contacting parietals; internasals present; nasal entire above, divided below naris; loreal absent; one preocular; two postoculars; 1 + 3/1 + 2 temporals; rostral contacting frontal, turned up in front and sharp edged; 7 supralabials, 3–4 contacting orbit; labials 2–3 contacting preocular; 6 infralabials, 1–3 contacting anterior chin shields; mental separated from anterior chin shields by mutual median contact of first infralabials; nasal separated from preocular and fused to first supralabial; 23 gulars; 153 ventrals; 33 subcaudals; anal plate divided; dorsocaudal rows reduce to 6 at subcaudal 8, reduce to 4 at subcaudal 17; 42 dorsal body blotches; and 14 dorsal caudal blotches. The total length of the holotype (only known specimen) is 142 mm; the tail length is 20 mm.

The dorsal pattern consists of dark brown blotches (faintly pale centered) on a pale brown ground color; the blotches are wider than long and have irregular posterior margins. Many small dark brown spots are present laterally in an irregular arrangement; the venter is immaculate white. The head is irregularly spotted with dark brown above and has an anterior brown interorbital bar; a brown suborbital spot is present.

This species differs from all other species of *Ficimia* by having the following combination of characteristics: two postoculars, internasals present, and more than 40 dorsal body blotches.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Smith and Taylor (1945) included this species in a key to the genus. Descriptions of scutellation, and various measurements of the body, tail, and many head plates are in Hardy (1975a).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Line drawings of the dorsal, ventral, and side views of the head of the holotype are in the original description (Smith and Taylor, 1941). Photographs of the whole body (dorsal and ventral views) and dorsal, ventral, and lateral views of the head of the holotype are in Hardy (1975a). The placement of *F. ruspator* in the phylogeny of *Ficimia* is depicted in Smith and Taylor (1941).



MAP. Solid circle indicates the type-locality; no other localities are known.

• DISTRIBUTION. Known only from the type-locality (see COMMENT).

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Hardy (1975a) presented a summary of characteristics and literature in a systematic revision of the genus. Speculation on the phylogeny and the time and place of the evolutionary origin of *Ficimia ruspator* is in Hardy (1975b). Smith, Langebartel, and Williams (1964) included the holotype in their list of type specimens of the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History. Smith and Taylor (1945) listed a second locality (see COMMENT). Saiff (1975) listed *F. ruspator* as a species lacking a preglottal structure (but see COMMENT).

• REMARKS. Since the holotype was found in Guerrero and no other common name has been used for this species I propose that *Ficimia ruspator* be called the Guerrero hook-nosed snake.

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet is from the Latin *rus* (the country [or rural, remote, dweller, or expatriate]), and *pater* (a father). This is an allusion to the presence of *F. ruspator* on Pacific slopes whereas most other members of *Ficimia* are on Atlantic slopes (Hobart Smith, personal communication).

COMMENT

In the original description Smith and Taylor (1941) suggest that one specimen from Cuernavaca, Morelos, cited in both Boulenger (1894) and in Günther (1893) is possibly a specimen of *Ficimia ruspator.* Although Hardy (1976) considered that specimen (Günther, 1893, Pl. 35, fig. C) to be *F. streckeri,* in a more detailed examination of Günther's figure C Hardy (1977) concluded that the Günther specimen is either *F. variegata* or *F. publia* but not *F. ruspator.* There are ten items of the head pattern that match the head pattern of one of the syntypes of *F. variegata.*

Although Saiff (1975) listed *Ficimia ruspator* as one of the species lacking preglottal structures he did not document the specimen(s) on which his conclusion was based. Saiff acknowledged examining only specimens in the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. Richard G. Zweifel has informed me that the American Museum does not contain any specimens of *F. ruspator.* The specimen (AMNH 71359) examined by Saiff (1975) was misidentified (Saiff, personal communication); Hardy (1972) referred it to *Pseudoficimia frontalis.*

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